

Restoration - Bassi/Millionaire Camp Unauthorized Routes (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700490

A. List of Restoration Activities

The Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District is proposing to repair watershed connectivity and reduce sediment delivery to Big Silver Creek (sections 17, 18, 19, 20 T12N, R15E). Within the project area there has been a large amount of cross-country motorized wheeled vehicle travel in the past. The resulting vegetation and soils of the project area have been highly disturbed, with many cross-country routes now void of vegetation and/or suffering from high levels of soil erosion. Although vehicles have been removed from the area, some areas are not gaining vegetation due to deep compaction of soil and continued erosion/sedimentation from impacted areas. The specific restoration activities are listed below:

Water will be diverted as needed from the existing trail through the use of water bars, outsloping, opening blockages of old drainage, and other trail maintenance techniques.

Across approximately 150 acres old roads and trails will be recontoured, ripped, water bars installed, and covered with natural ground cover as needed.

Within Millionaire dispersed camping area, compacted soil will be ripped with a combination of hand tools and small dozer and/or excavator. Natural ground cover and plugs of forbs and grasses will be transplanted into the ripped areas. Trees will be planted in ripped areas as well. No ripping will occur within drainages. Water will be diverted back into natural drainage features.

Along the shoreline of Big Silver Creek the streamside will be revegetated with brush, forbs, willow, and grasses. Willow cuttings will come from plants up and downstream of the restoration area. All other plants will be obtained from locally collected seed or weed-free sources. Mulch shavings will be placed on top of the barren soil and adjacent to plantings.

A small degraded riparian area will be restored by removing sedimentation currently covering organic soils and utilizing the 'plug and pond' technique to reduce future sediment delivery. This technique will slow water flow through the area to allow riparian vegetation to grow within the impacted area. Removed sediment will be used to fill eroded areas on the hiking trail and old roads.

Two access paths to Big Silver Creek will be hardened with rock, tunnel muck, and other natural materials to maintain access to the creek while the rest of the shoreline will be closed with a constructed barrier.

User created trails will be blocked with boulders or other materials to prevent unauthorized access and reduce resource damage.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

Motorized vehicle use to the Millionaire Camp dispersed camping area has resulted in several user created routes which weave through the area, as evidenced by the loss of vegetation, soil compaction, and erosion. Past restoration efforts, including blocking unauthorized routes and revegetation was completed between 2002 and 2004. Parking for dispersed camping was provided as a part of the restoration project. The original restoration significantly reduced unauthorized access and resource damage to the area. However, some OHV users (primarily ATVs) have continue to attempt to pioneer new routes. In addition, Millionaire Camp is a historic site (ARR# 05-03-331-409) which is being impacted.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

Project area is approximately 150 acres.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

The Bassi-Millionaire area is regularly patrolled by recreation and law enforcement staff and monitored to prevent unauthorized access and resource damage. The frequency of monitoring will be adjusted based on observations and

evidence of vehicle presence in the area. Forest Hydrologist's will monitor watershed connectivity, stream bank erosion and sediment delivery to Big Silver Creek.

E. List of Reports

Planning already completed.

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

N/A

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

Ongoing patrol by recreation and law enforcement staff will educate the public and enforce regulations. Physical barriers such as boulders will be placed to prevent access into restoration areas. Informational signs will be placed at restored sites to educate the public.

Additional Documentation

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700490

1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Bassi/Millionaire Project Location Map](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[Bassi/Millionaire Project Before Photos](#)

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:				Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Eldorado National Forest				
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration - Bassi/Millionaire Camp Unauthorized Routes (FINAL)			PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-03-R02
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration				
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Ranger District is proposing to repair watershed connectivity and reduce sediment delivery to Big Silver Creek (sections 17, 18, 19, 20 T12N, R15E). Within the project area there has been a large amount of cross-country motorized wheeled vehicle travel in the past. The resulting vegetation and soils of the project area have been highly disturbed, with many cross-country routes now void of vegetation and/or suffering from high levels of soil erosion. Although vehicles have been removed from the area, some areas are not gaining vegetation due to deep compaction of soil and continued erosion/sedimentation from impacted areas. The specific restoration activities are listed below:</p> <p>Water will be diverted as needed from the existing trail through the use of water bars, outsloping, opening blockages of old drainage, and other trail maintenance techniques.</p> <p>Across approximately 150 acres old roads and trails will be recontoured, ripped, water bars installed, and covered with natural ground cover as needed.</p> <p>Within Millionaire dispersed camping area, compacted soil will be ripped with a combination of hand tools and small dozer and/or excavator. Natural ground cover and plugs of forbs and grasses will be transplanted into the ripped areas. Trees will be planted in ripped areas as well. No ripping will occur within drainages. Water will be diverted back into natural drainage features.</p> <p>Along the shoreline of Big Silver Creek the streamside will be revegetated with brush, forbs, willow, and grasses. Willow cuttings will come from plants up and downstream of the restoration area. All other plants will be obtained from locally collected seed or weed-free sources. Mulch shavings will be placed on top of the barren soil and adjacent to plantings.</p> <p>A small degraded riparian area will be restored by removing sedimentation currently covering organic soils and utilizing the 'plug and pond' technique to reduce future sediment delivery. This technique will slow water flow through the area to allow riparian vegetation to grow within the impacted area. Removed sediment will be used to fill eroded areas on the hiking trail and old roads.</p> <p>Two access paths to Big Silver Creek will be hardened with rock, tunnel muck, and other natural materials to maintain access to the creek while the rest of the shoreline will be closed with a constructed barrier.</p> <p>User created trails will be blocked with boulders or other materials to prevent unauthorized access and reduce resource damage.</p>				

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Eldorado National Forest
Application: Restoration - Bassi/Millionaire Camp Unauthorized Routes (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Hydrologist	10.000	350.000	DAY	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
	OHV Coordinator	5.000	250.000	DAY	1,250.00	0.00	1,250.00
	Other-Resource Officer	5.000	395.000	DAY	0.00	1,975.00	1,975.00
	Other-LEO	5.000	350.000	DAY	0.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
	Other-Equipment Operator	5.000	350.000	DAY	1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00
	Other-Wildlife Biologist	5.000	320.000	DAY	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
	Other-Volunteers Notes : Volunteers to help with revegetation and monitoring.	80.000	20.250	HRS	0.00	1,620.00	1,620.00
	Other-Trails Technician	5.000	200.000	DAY	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Total for Staff				9,100.00	5,345.00	14,445.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Barrier Rock Notes : Cost includes transportation. Match is the value of the rocks	25.000	125.000	EA	2,500.00	625.00	3,125.00
	Signs	10.000	50.000	EA	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Other-Vegetation	30.000	10.000	EA	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Other-Rice Straw	10.000	20.000	EA	200.00	0.00	200.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				3,500.00	625.00	4,125.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Eldorado National Forest
Application: Restoration - Bassi/Millionaire Camp Unauthorized Routes (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Equipment Rental	5.000	500.000	DAY	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Other-Vehicle Use	500.000	0.450	MI	225.00	0.00	225.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				2,725.00	0.00	2,725.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Billing	1.000	1500.000	EA	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Program Expenses					15,325.00	7,470.00	22,795.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					15,325.00	7,470.00	22,795.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					15,325.00	7,470.00	22,795.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: USFS - Eldorado National Forest
 Application: Restoration - Bassi/Millionaire Camp Unauthorized Routes (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	9,100.00	5,345.00	14,445.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	3,500.00	625.00	4,125.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	2,725.00	0.00	2,725.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total Program Expenses		15,325.00	7,470.00	22,795.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		15,325.00	7,470.00	22,795.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		15,325.00	7,470.00	22,795.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700490

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, streams, creeks, or any threatened, endangered, or other special status species, based on the environmental analyses completed (2009 Decision Notice). The project is designed to restore hydrologic connectivity between various tributary streams and Big Silver Creek, which is the primary drainage in the area. The project will divert water from existing unauthorized routes that were created by OHV use through the use of water bars, outsliping, opening blocked drainages and other techniques. In addition, the unauthorized routes will be recontoured, ripped and revegetated to reduce erosion and sediment delivery to Big Silver Creek or its tributaries.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

No cumulative impacts are expected from implementation of this project. The area that is being restored is not an area that is open to OHV travel, and so will not change overall use patterns or displace users. This project is designed to reduce the potential for cumulative watershed impacts.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

This project will not have adverse effects on steep slopes or highly erodible soils. The restoration efforts will include controlling vehicle travel onto the disturbed area, thus limiting further erosion. Areas of compacted soil will be ripped and mulched or revegetated.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

This project area does not include any State Scenic Highways nor is it visible from a State Scenic Highway.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

Archaeological concerns have been addressed and coordinated with the District Archaeologist (ARR# R2009-05-03-50005).

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The project is not likely to cause indirect significant impacts. As described previously, the area that is being restored is not open to motor vehicle use and so will not change overall use patterns in the area or in other parts of the Eldorado National Forest.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Bassi/Millionaire Decision Memo 4/20/2009](#)

Evaluation Criteria

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700490

1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 12

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
☒ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
☒ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
☒ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [2]
☐ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species
☐ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Soils are still actively eroding, directly contributing sediment to Big Silver Creek. Riparian vegetation will be prevented from reestablishing by continued unauthorized motorized access. There are several sensitive archaeological sites in the area that would be negatively impacted by unauthorized motor vehicle use.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
☒ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
☐ Management decision (1 point)
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Eldorado National Forest Travel Management EIS and ROD

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 8

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☒ Use of native plants and materials
- ☐ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☒ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Law enforcement and recreation staff will patrol the area to educate the public and enforce the site closure. Rock barriers will be placed to prevent access. Native plants will be utilized to reestablish vegetation. Educational signs will be posted to explain the project to the public.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Eldorado National Forest Travel Management EIS and ROD

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ☐ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ☒ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 1

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Scoping notices were sent to 590 interested parties. Scoping notice was posted at the entrance to Bassi Falls - Millionaire Camp. Supporting comments were received.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 1

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☒ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Desolation Wilderness Volunteers

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

Private land was acquired by the Forest Service under land exchange in 2004. Unauthorized motor vehicle access has been significantly reduced thru previous restoration activities and active patrol. The area was not designated for motor vehicle use in the Eldorado National Forest Travel Management EIS and ROD.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
☐ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)
☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)